

MICHIGAN STATE MEDICAL SOCIETY

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MEMO TO: House Commerce Committee

FROM: AppaRao Mukkamala, MD, President
Michigan State Medical Society

RE: MSMS Position on House Bill 4146

On behalf of the more than 15,000 physicians of the Michigan State Medical Society, I am writing in support of House Bill 4146. This legislation seeks to place reasonable regulations on tanning facilities as well as providing important disclosures to the public.

Prevention is often the most effective way of improving the health status of citizens in Michigan. Making individuals aware of how their choice to tan may negatively impact their health into the future is a reasonable step to take. Additionally, House Bill 4146 provides an increased opportunity for parents to make informed decisions about the use of tanning equipment by their children.

The increased prevalence of skin cancer is an alarming trend. Melanoma, which is the deadliest form of skin cancer, has been steadily increasing in the last two decades. Pediatric melanoma has increased 100 percent. Out of the 30 million Americans who use indoor tanning facilities every year, 2.3 million of them are teenagers.

House Bill 4146 seeks legislation focused on prevention of a deadly disease. As physicians, one of the most frustrating elements of our job is seeing a patient require a serious medical intervention or worse from a condition that was preventable. On behalf of our patients we urge you support House Bill 4146.